

***The Institution of Engineers, Australia: Sydney Division  
Engineering Heritage Committee***

***Oral History Program: Biographical Notes***

**Graeme M. Peck (1937 - )  
Civil Engineer**

- Birth & Family:** Born Launceston, Tasmania 1937, one of 12 children. Forebear arrived on the First Fleet in 1788.
- Education:** Attended West Launceston State Primary and completed secondary Education at Launceston Grammar School.  
1956 - 1959 Hobart University, Bachelor of Civil Engineering
- Qualifications:** B.E. (Hons), M.Eng., FIE Aust., MAIPM, AIArb.A
- Memberships:** 1991-1993 Member of School of Civil Engineering Visiting Committee  
1993 -1999 Munro Centre, Advisory Committee,  
1972 -1983 Member of NSW committee, Australian Federation of Construction Contractors (AFCC)  
1976 -1977 President, NSW Branch, AFCC  
1976 -1981 Council Member, AFCC  
Australian Road Research Board, Road Structures, Technical Committee  
Member Conditions of Contract Sub-Committee, AFCC  
Standards Association of Australia, Conditions of Contract Committee  
Member Industrial Relations Sub-Committee AFCC  
Member National Industrial Consultative Council (NICC)  
1986 - 1999 Technical Panel Member, Australian Commercial Disputes Centre  
1989 - 1999 Member of NSW Supreme Court Panel of Referees
- Awards:** 1966 Warren Memorial Prize of the Institution of Engineers.
- Work History:** Deferring a scholarship to Hobart University, Peck worked for 12 months as a cadet engineer with the Tasmanian Hydro Electricity Commission in Hobart.  
Started Bachelor of Civil Engineering in 1956, graduating with first class honours in 1959. Worked with Public Works Department for 8 months and then took up a British Commonwealth Scholarship at

Magill University in Montreal, Canada studying a Masters in Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering.

In 1962, Peck returned to Hobart to complete obligations to Tasmanian Public Works Department, being on the supervisory team for Tasman Bridge. Worked Tasmanian PWD Bridge Section for 12 months then transferred to Materials and Research Section.

Peck commenced work with Pearson Bridge in February 1967 doing commercial Engineering till 1968. The majority of projects at this time consisted of the construction of bridges throughout NSW. In 1969, opened a Sydney office for Melbourne based Parkel and Freeman but rejoined Pearson Bridge as Construction Manager and Director in 1971 till 1984. UK company, Costains, took over Pearson Bridge in 1980.

As well as the construction of major bridges including Kuching (Sarawak) and the Bintulu Bridge in West Sarawak, Peck's work had also included Hong Kong Motorway, a new container berth in Port Moresby and notable underground projects:

Power Station Cooling Water Outfall tunnel, NSW

Magdala Mine Decline, Stawell, NSW

German Creek Central Colliery, QLD

Kotara Rail Tunnel, Newcastle, NSW

Kings Cross Rail Tunnel, Sydney

Kings Cross Road Tunnel, Sydney

Strathgordon Underground Power Station, Intake and Bus Bar Shafts, Tasmania

Strathgordon Tailrace Tunnel, Gordon River Power Development, Tasmania

Longos Mine Shafts, Philippines

Tuggeranong Sewer Tunnel, NCDC, Canberra

Bondi Car Park, Twin Road Access Tunnels, Sydney

PMG Cable Tunnels, Sydney

Carpathia Mine Adits, Ardlethan, NSW

Lyall Dam Diversion Tunnel, Tasmania

Peck also instigated productivity improvements at Pearson Bridge, quadrupling annual turnover growth to twice the national average.

In April 1984 he started his own consultancy business, joined by Mal Evans to become Evans and Peck in 1985. Significant consultancies included:

Sydney Harbour Tunnel, North Shore and South Shore Tunnels

New Southern Rail Link, Sydney

City Northern Bypass, Perth  
Southern Bypass, City Link, Melbourne  
Perisher Ski Tube, Snowy Mountains  
Mangrove Creek Tunnel, NSW  
Bondi Ocean Outfall, Sydney  
Mantons Ridge Highway Tunnel, Yass Bypass, NSW  
Sydney Water Board Ocean Outfalls, North Head, Malabar and Bondi, Sydney  
Sedco-Forex Outfall Diffuser Project, Sydney  
Rouna 4 Hydroelectric Tunnel, PNG  
Prospect to Guildford Tunnel, Sydney

Evans and Peck were also involved in risk management training for managers in PNG.

Peck was heavily involved in major rail project and train maintenance commercial rail from Sydney to Perth, Tangara trains and light rail in Hong Kong.

Evans and Peck were technical and commercial advisors to the RTA for the Eastern Distributor and the M5. They were also advisors for the M2 and M4 projects and advisors to Transfield on the air-rail link project and the Melbourne City Link. Again developing techniques from the onset of the project for risk management and productivity increase.

Peck provided technical and commercial advice on the Orison Crossing, a \$US 2 Billion tunnel crossing from Denmark to Sweden.

Dispute resolution was significant part of Evans & Peck's work, including expert witnesses capable of performing forensic analysis and technical analysis assisting lawyers in litigations.

Peck wrote and ran the contract administration course for the Australian Federation of Construction Engineers for 8 years, was a visiting fellow at University of NSW and an advisor on course content to Sydney University and University of NSW.